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## **Senate Committee Recommends Tighter Solid Waste Restrictions**

LANSING—Michigan will see increased regulations and inspections of solid waste, regardless of its source, state Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp) announced today.

“After hearing testimony from concerned citizens, I am glad to recommend this legislation,” said Birkholz, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. “The challenge before us was to establish a solid waste management plan which fully protects our Michigan citizens from public health threats, encourages recycling and protects our environment without discriminating against interstate commerce.”

The Committee approved today a legislative package that would:

- enact two significant new landfill bans of beverage containers and whole tires
- give new authority to the DEQ Director to restrict waste shipments in the event of a public health or environmental threat
- step-up inspections and penalties for violations of the state’s waste management laws
- prohibit out-of-state waste from entering the state unless the place of origin has the same stringent waste standards as Michigan, as defined by landfill bans
- create a two-year moratorium on siting of certain new landfills.

This legislative package is expected to be ready for Senate passage as early as Thursday, Oct 9.

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**Comments from Sen. Birkholz on the waste restrictions are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop) or by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000.**